

PATENT

Serial No. 10/500,507

Reply Brief in Reply to Examiner's Answer of July 27, 2007

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re Application of
PETER LURKENS

Atty. Docket
DE 020010

Serial No. 10/500,507

Confirmation No. 4384
Group Art Unit: 2163

Filed: JUNE 29, 2004

Examiner: VY, HUNG T.

Title: ELECTRONIC CIRCUIT, AND METHOD OF OPERATING A HIGH
PRESSURE LAMP

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
Honorable Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

APPELLANTS' REPLY BRIEF

Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Answer mailed on July 27, 2007,
please consider the following remarks:

REMARKS

Appellant maintains the arguments submitted in the Appeal Brief mailed on November 21, 2006, which are incorporated herein by reference. Further, Appellant refutes the allegations made in the Examiner's Answer of July 27, 2007.

In particular, Appellant respectfully refutes the allegations throughout the Examiner's Answer that U.S. Patent No. 4,949,015 (Nilssen) discloses that "the first half bridge and the second half bridge operate independently of each other," as required by independent claim 12.

For example, Appellant respectfully refutes the allegations on pages 3 and 7 of the Examiner's Answer, where it is alleged on page 3, last paragraph, that:

the first half bridge and the second half bridge operate independently of each other (See column 4, line[s] 61-68) (i.e., "a first mode wherein the first pair of switching transistors self-oscillate in manner of a half-bridge inverter and powers a first load, and a second mode wherein both pairs of transistors self-oscillate in [manner] of a full-bridge inverter and then powers a [second] load in addition to the first load" (column 1, line[s] 55-61)).

Further, it is alleged on page 7, second and third paragraphs,

that:

Appellant asserts in all argument[s] that "independent" operation means one inverter in operation while the remaining is not.

... lines 55-61, column 1 or column 7, line[s] 32-60 in Nilssen clearly setting forth both pair of half bridge self oscillating (see column 1, line[s] 54-57 or column 7, line[s] 32-60).

It is respectfully submitted that at no time has the Appellant asserted that "independent" operation means one inverter in operation while the remaining is not. Rather, Appellant asserted that "independent" operation means both the first half bridge and the second half bridge operate independently of each other.

It is respectfully submitted that U.S. 4,949,015 (Nilssen) teaches two modes, where in a first mode ONE half-bridge inverter operates, while the other half-bridge inverter does NOT operate. This is clearly stated on column 4, lines 61-64, that the:

two half-bridge inverters, either of which can be made to operate independently of the other, as long as the other is maintained in a non-operative state. (Emphasis added)

In a second mode where "both half-bridge inverters oscillate, they are bound by their common feedback current to operate in synchronism and out-of-phase with one another." (Emphasis added)

That is, when BOTH half-bridge inverter operate, than they depend on each other, namely, in synchronism and out-or-phase with one another. Further, EITHER ONE half-bridge inverter can be made to operate independently of the other, as long as the other is maintained in a NON-OPERATIVE state.

It is respectfully submitted that U.S. 4,949,015 (Nilssen) is completely silent and doest not teach or suggest that "the first half bridge and the second half bridge operate independently of each other," as required by independent claim 12.

Rather, Nilssen specifically teaches that the two half bridges depend on each other when they both operate, thus teaching away from the present invention as recite in independent claim 12 which requires that the two bridges operate independently of each other. U.S. Patent No. 6,535,403 (Jungreis) is cited to allegedly show other features and does not remedy the deficiencies in Nilssen.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 12 is allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-11 and 13-14 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claim 12.

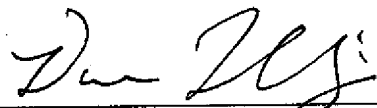
In addition, Appellant denies any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Appellant reserves the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-14 are patentable over Nilssen and Jungreis.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-14 is in error and should be reversed.

Respectfully submitted,

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